GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5331
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
FINANCING AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TELEPHONY
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate financing agency is proposed for the development of rural telephony;

(b) whether the revenue returns from rural telephony are less than of urban areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expand and make rural telephony more economical?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The average revue per line per month from rural telephones is about Rs 207/- compared with over Rs 700/- per urban telephone. This makes the earning from rural telephones less than one-third of what is earned from telephones in the towns.

(d) A large number of small and medium exchanges are being set up in rural areas. These will be supplemented by new technologies like Centre for Development of Telematics Time Division Multiple Access Point to Multi-Point (C-DOT TDMA/PMP), Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and Satellite for remote areas of the country, that are being inducted in rural network to achieve thetargets in the rural areas. Cost effective technology will be deployed as per terrain in rural areas.